



Protecting the Coastline

Severe weather dealt a lot of damage to shoreline properties last year. This prompted legislators on the Environment Committee to consider how best to protect Connecticut's shoreline in the future. Unfortunately, their original bill contained some objectionable restrictions on private property. I am happy to say that after hearing from many of you, these provisions were removed. The final bill respects property owners' rights while encouraging better long-term planning in areas repeatedly damaged by storms.



Save Our Submarine Base

The success of the Sub Base in Groton is critical to both our national security and our local economy. Working with other state and federal legislators, I have worked this year to secure funds for improvements to the base, to enhance its military value and to guard against closure. In April, two new training facilities and a state-of-the-art pier were completed. Property surrounding the base was acquired to provide a buffer with nearby properties.



Encouraging Local Investment

In January, I was pleased to join inventor and entrepreneur Anthony Viggiano of Groton Long Point for a demonstration of his Autotether boating safety device, which he designed and continues to manufacture right here in Connecticut. An angel investor tax credit that was expanded in last fall's bipartisan Jobs Bill is helping Mr. Viggiano to raise \$1 million in new capital to support his company, grow the business, and develop new products.

More Local News...

Preston Riverwalk

Late last year, about \$1.5 million in state funds were approved to help with the cleanup and redevelopment of the Preston Riverwalk, formerly known as the old Norwich State Hospital. We also took steps this year to allow the Preston Redevelopment Agency to split the site into smaller parcels—making it more attractive to developers. The aging site holds great promise, and these efforts should help to unlock its true potential.

Expanding the Griswold Senior Center

Membership at the Griswold Senior Center has grown too large in recent years for its current facility. In April, I worked with local officials to secure a grant from the state to finance a 3,000 square foot second-floor addition to the building, which will almost double the current Senior Center in size. The new space will include multiple rooms for studies, medical clinics and other activities such as Zumba dancing and crafts.

Talking with Lieutenant Jim Dole of the Noank Fire Department about some of the issues facing first responders.



I recently tried my hand at plowing like an old-timer...with draft horses. I was on hand to see a new community garden bed dug at the Fairview Odd Fellows Home in Groton by volunteers from the Eastern Connecticut Community Garden Association (ECCGA) and Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue. ECCGA has helped more than 60 groups start community gardens that have grown tons of food, much of which is delivered to social service organizations.



Your State Senator

Andrew Maynard

Representing the residents of
Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield,
Preston, Sterling, Stonington & Voluntown





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Talking with Michael McCabe of Noank Shipyard about some of the issues facing the marine trades in Southeastern Connecticut.

Your State Senator Andrew Maynard

Resources

In addition to our work this session, last October we passed a historic, bipartisan Jobs Bill to help small businesses and workers by improving access to capital, job training and education. Below is a list of programs and contact information that could benefit you or someone you know.

- **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- **Small Business Express Package** to get funding for your small business: www.decd.org, or contact Michelle Lugo at 860-270-8052 or michelle.lugo@ct.gov
- **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: contact Rina Bakalar at the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, 860-263-6523 or rina.bakalar@ct.gov
- **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

To learn more, visit: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Listening to Mehmet Kavgaci, owner of Atlantic Auto Service in Groton, about some of the issues facing small, independently owned businesses.



Education Reforms

Every child deserves a first-class education. That's why we worked with teachers, education advocates and Governor Malloy to pass a historic education reform plan. It provides interventions and innovative new strategies for high-need schools and support for children and families. It invests in communities and ensures high-quality teaching in the classroom. The new law provides:

- Funding for 1,000 new early childhood slots
- 20 new or expanded school-based health centers
- Kindergarten through third-grade reading programs
- Innovative approaches to teaching English Language Learners
- Increased funding for new and existing Family Resource Centers
- A fair and validated evaluation system that will help teachers improve
- Additional funding to school districts across the state

A COMMITMENT TO CREATING JOBS

How do you improve on one of the most successful Connecticut job-creation and economic assistance plans ever devised?

You make it available to even more businesses and employees.

This year Senate Democrats expanded the Jobs Bill that we originally approved last October. That means:

- Extending incentives to thousands of additional small and medium size businesses which will lead to more state manufacturers hiring, buying, training and expanding;
- Additional job-training support for post-9/11 combat veterans through the expansion of our new state STEP-Up Program;
- A "Connecticut Made" marketing campaign that advertises and markets locally made products;
- And a stronger "First Five" business incentive program that gives preference to companies that move jobs from overseas back to Connecticut.

Protecting Consumers, Fighting Price Gouging



Last year we saw some of the worst of what Mother Nature has to offer. Record-breaking snowfall and a powerful tropical storm wreaked havoc, causing downed trees, power outages and roof collapses. We came together as a state to clean up and repair homes after the storms.

In the Senate, we crafted legislation that extends protections from price-gouging to emergency lodging and weather-related services such as snow removal, flood abatement, clean-up and repairs.

The package we passed in the Senate went even further by protecting people against:

- Unnecessary collection of Social Security numbers;
- Deceptive automatic renewal language buried in the fine print of introductory offers; and,
- Telemarketers giving false or misleading identifying information.

Though not all of these bills passed in the House, they are important issues that the General Assembly should remain focused on next year.

Cooperation on Long Island Sound

In April, I was honored to be chosen as a founding member and Senate Co-Chair of the new Long Island Sound Legislative Caucus. This new group of legislators will work together and—in cooperation with our neighbors in New York—address important issues concerning shipping, fishing, boating, recreation, the environment and more.



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